

of adjacent machine direction yarns, then passes under said transitional top machine direction yarn, said third and fourth pairs of top machine direction yarns being offset from said first and second pairs by one machine direction yarn, such that said top machine direction yarns, said cross machine direction yarns, and said fiber support portions of said first and second stitching yarns form a 1x2 twill pattern;

(b) applying paper stock to said papermaker's fabric; and

(c) removing moisture from said paper stock.

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given the Official Action dated 26 February 1999 in preparing this response. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the remarks that follow is respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicates that Claims 3, 5-9, 11-13, 16, 18, 19 and 22 are allowed.

Claim 8 stands rejected under Section 112. Claim 8 has been amended as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 8 is allowable as amended and allowance of said claim is respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicates that Claim 25 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 25 has been so amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 25 is allowable as amended and allowance of said claim is respectfully requested.

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under Section 102. Claim 23 has been amended to recite a method of making paper including the step of providing a papermaker's fabric as recited in allowed Claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 23 is allowable as amended and allowance of said claim is respectfully requested. Claim 24 depends from Claim 23 as amended and is therefore allowable as well.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 26 and 27 have been previously canceled.

Conclusion

The points and concerns raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Official Action having been addressed in full, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance with Claims 3, 5-9, 11-13, 16, 18, 19, and 22-25, which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any small matters outstanding for resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

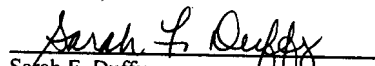


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on March 18, 1999.


Sarah F. Duffy
Date of Signature: March 18, 1999

